

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION  
QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2015  
Conference Room A  
Indiana Government Center South  
Indianapolis, IN 46204**

Nancy Stewart, Chair

**Members present:** Kathy Anderson, Gil Cárdenas, Libby Chiu, Ruth Ann Cowling, Karen Ellerbrook, Susan Hardwick, Pam Hicks, Jennifer Perry, Allen Platt, Micah Smith, Sherry Stark, Nancy Stewart, Trevor Yager

**Members via teleconference:**

**Members absent:** Jeff Kirk, Al Rent, Yolanda Stemer

**Arts Commission staff present:** Ann Fields Monical, Sarah Fronczek, Becca Hopson, Miah Michaelsen, Stephanie Pfendler, Lewis Ricci, Adrian Starnes, Rex Van Zant

**Guests:** Scott Wylie (RAP Chair)

- 1. Welcome and Introductions.** Commission Chair, Nancy Stewart, called the meeting to order at 8:13 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves. She welcomed new commissioners Libby Chiu, Ruth Ann Cowling and Yolanda Stemer.
- 2. Consent Agenda.** Ms. Stewart called to approve the agenda for today's meeting and the minutes from the September 18, 2015 meeting of the Commission. Commissioner Susan Hardwick motioned to approve. Commissioner Trevor Yager seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consensus.
- 3. Chair and Executive Committee Report.**
  - a. Financials**
    - i. Arts Commission Deputy Director, Miah Michaelsen, presented the FY2016 YTD financials, (attached) noting that all expenses are under variance in all categories. 6 months into the fiscal year, the Commission is in good shape. Ms. Michaelsen further expressed her confidence that the numbers are correct, since "we are finally getting up to speed with how the State reports our numbers to us." Executive Director, Lewis Ricci, pointed out for the new Commissioners, the projected and actual columns and noted that a portion of our reserve was returned to the Commission for Bicentennial projects.
    - ii. Ms. Michaelsen presented the delineated reallocation of the Bicentennial Programs, Capacity Building & PACE Project Budget (attached). The Arts in the Parks program was originally budgeted for \$330,500. After awarding approved grantees, paying for ASCAP licensure, marketing and training DNR staff and grantees, it is proposed that the remaining \$74,283 be cascaded down into the Indiana Masterpiece program. Mr. Yager, in response to the \$25,000 set aside for training, cautioned the commission against distributing versus centralizing resources, citing multiplicity of past capacity building programs and excessive expenditures. Mr. Ricci responded that because all parks are centrally managed by the Division of Natural Resources it will be a "centralized educational experience". Arts Commission Community Engagement Manager, Rebecca Hopson, interjected that once projects begin we will better know how to proceed with training. Mr. Yager further proposed consolidating Arts in the Parks training into the Capacity Building program, which Ms. Michaelsen concurred, was a good idea. Delving further into the reallocations, Mr. Ricci stressed that because the Indiana

Masterpiece grants span two fiscal years, the Commission will be committing money from a budget that has yet to be approved, adding that the intent has been discussed with the State Budget Agency, with approval. Discussion followed. Positing the possibility that these funds will not be available, Commissioner Susan Hardwick interjected that the allocations should be made subject to language that protects the Commission against such a situation. Mr. Yager agreed, adding that the motion should contain language stipulating “the approach”. Commissioner Libby Chiu interjected that staff knowledge as opposed to the Commission’s overall picture should be trusted so that all decisions made by the staff are not subject to board approval. Mr. Ricci added that the contracts, as always, will have standard contingency language stipulating that the 2<sup>nd</sup> payment has not been approved yet, but is intended to be a part of the 2017 budget, to anticipate such a scenario. Ms. Hardwick motions to approve this recommended approach for the Bicentennial Programs, Capacity Building and PACE budgets, subject to the approval of the 2017 budget that includes appropriate funds being allocated therein. Trevor Yager seconds the motion.

Kathy Anderson	Yes
Gil Cárdenas	Yes
Karen Ellerbrook	Yes
Susan Hardwick	Yes
Pam Hicks	Yes
Jennifer Perry	Yes
Allen Platt	Yes
Micah Smith	Yes
Sherry Stark	Yes
Nancy Stewart	Yes
Trevor Yager	Yes

The motion is unanimously approved.

- b. Commissioner Appointments and Reappointments.** Mr. Ricci reported that Micah Smith was re-appointed for another 4 year term. Newly appointed to the commission is Libby Chiu of Ogden Dunes, Ruth Ann Cowling of Jeffersonville and Yolanda Stemer of Chesterton. They received a warm welcome.
- c. New Liaison Staff.** Mr. Ricci reported that while we have had a liaison through the Office of the First Lady during the Pence administration, we have not, until now, had a liaison from the Governor’s Office. Adarsh Mantravadi, Economic Policy Director for the office of the Governor, will fulfill this role. Ken Davenport is the agency’s new Human Resources point of contact. Ron Sobecki will be our temporary liaison from the State Budget Agency.
- d. Policy Issues.**
  - i. Lay of the Land Grant Levels Revisit.** Because 22% of operational grant organizations have moved up in budget category, a study group consisting of Commissioners, partner RAPs who do not receive operational support, former AOS recipients, and similar granting agencies will convene between February and August to ascertain the equity of allocations. Ms. Michaelsen added that an outside facilitator is being secured and the commission should anticipate resultant recommendations at the September Quarterly Business Meeting.
  - ii. Low Number Issue.** Because the Commission currently has no criteria to manage issuing or retracting low issue license plates, Mr. Ricci submitted for discussion a proposed policy (attached) created in collaboration with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Office of the Governor. Mr. Ricci continued that “we are looking to put policy behind our actions that protects our decision making and public perception.” Some issues addressed included the relationship of the plate holder to the Commission, policy if a plate holder commits a crime and coherent policy to justify plate retraction. Currently, the BMV is the only entity who can retract, so, if the Commission decides to reserve the right to retract, we would have to begin the necessary steps to hold this power.

Commissioner Allen Platt, recommends using language stressing the Commission reserves the right to retract plates in “the Commission’s reasonable discretion” instead of listing requirements of when and how we can retract.

- e. **Executive Director Report.** Nancy Stewart thanked Lewis Ricci for all he does for the Commission and invited input from staff and other Commissioners as she begins his performance appraisal.
- f. **Bicentennial Presentation at 11 a.m. today/Indiana Statehood Day.** Pending approval of the grants today, Mr. Ricci and Ms. Stewart met with the Bicentennial Commission, which followed today’s meeting and presented these grants. The Bicentennial Commission meeting was held in the Indiana State Library. Statehood day activities took place in the Statehouse Rotunda and all were invited to attend the public event.

#### 4. **Executive Director Report.**

- a. **Staff Update.** Because Joely Pope completed her internship, Anna Tragesser, a SPEA student, will be the agency’s intern next semester. Generously, the Arts Administration program is funding this internship for the semester. Mr. Ricci added that annual staff reviews are being finalized. State policy regarding wage increases, if any, will be announced at the first of the year.
- b. **Technical Assistant/Capacity Building update.**
  - i. The Commission has contracted Arts United to complete a statewide economic impact study for the entire State of Indiana based on the same study completed for the Ft. Wayne region. Existing employment, housing and other data sets will help create one economic view of the arts by region. These results will dovetail into our strategic planning process and provide valuable information for our advocacy efforts. Mr. Ricci thanked Ms. Stewart and Susan Mendenhall of Arts United, for bringing the opportunity to us. Mr. Yager reminded the Commission of Drew Classic’s state wide demographic study and recommended integrating this information into the results of the Arts United Study. In response to Commissioner Kathy Anderson’s question, the data will reflect information down to the county level. Ms. Stewart concluded that the study is comprehensive.
  - ii. Ann Fields Monical, Arts Commission Communications and Community Engagement Manager apprised the Commission of Capacity Building activities. Survey results defining the top challenges faced by arts organizations and RFPs submitted addressing these results, have culminated in “Be the Change”, a conference modeled on the Embracing Community Change conference held in South Bend in 2013. Engaging with underserved audiences will be the focus. Partners are being contacted and will potentially include Art House, The Heat Light Water Project, Derek Reeves with the Unity Performing Arts Foundation, and Drew Classic, to name a few. Art Mix’s proposal focused on underserved audiences will be utilized, as well as, the proposal submitted by the IU center on Aging and Community. Mr. Ricci added that a 40 thousand foot advisory committee will look to people on a broader, national perspective in regards to at risk youth, access, aging and ethnic diversity. Mr. Yager broadened the definition of at risk youth to include the LGBT community and suggested looking into the Indiana Youth Institute, who hosts an annual art auction. Ms. Chiu put up for consideration looking into “unusual suspects”, suggesting Farm bureaus, 4H clubs, and trade unions who run programs to keep their arts alive.
- c. **National Partnerships updates.** Mr. Ricci reported The National Endowment for the Arts has created short video pieces highlighting every State in celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. These can be found on the NEA’s website. Indiana’s segment can be found here: <https://www.arts.gov/50th/stories#IN>
- d. **Thank you to Jeff Kuehl** who has worked for the Columbus area arts council for approximately 16 years and served as President for the Indiana Coalition for the Arts. He will be moving to Kentucky. Mr. Ricci added in the area of advocacy, Jeff has served as this voice and now someone will have to step up to the plate in his absence.

\*\*\*\*\*BREAK\*\*\*\*\*

## 5. Committee Reports

### a. Programs, Grants and Services Committee, Al Rent, Chair

- i. In Committee Chair Al Rent's absence, Arts Commission Director of Programs, Paige Sharp, presented the FY2016 Arts in the Parks grants for approval (attached) as submitted. Commissioner Karen Ellerbrook moved to accept the grants. Trevor Yager seconded the motion.

Kathy Anderson	Yes
Gil Cárdenas	Yes
Karen Ellerbrook	Yes
Susan Hardwick	Yes
Pam Hicks	Yes
Jennifer Perry	Yes
Allen Platt	Yes
Micah Smith	Yes
Sherry Stark	Yes
Nancy Stewart	Yes
Trevor Yager	Yes

The Commission unanimously accepts the FY2016 Arts in the Parks grants.

Vicki Basman, Chief of Interpretation for DNR's Division of State Parks & Reservoirs, who partnered with Becca Hopson in forming the program, briefly joined the meeting and thanked everyone who helped the program come to fruition.

- ii. Ms. Sharp presented the FY2016 and FY2017 Indiana Masterpiece grants (attached). Nancy Stewart called to approve the Indiana Masterpiece grants as submitted. Susan Hardwick moved to accept. Micah Smith seconded the motion.

Kathy Anderson	Yes
Gil Cárdenas	Yes
Karen Ellerbrook	Yes
Susan Hardwick	Yes
Pam Hicks	Yes
Jennifer Perry	Yes
Allen Platt	Yes
Micah Smith	Yes
Sherry Stark	Yes
Nancy Stewart	Yes
Trevor Yager	Yes

The Commission unanimously approved the FY2016 and FY2017 Indiana Masterpiece grants.

- iii. Sarah Fronczek, Arts Commission Community Development Manager and Arts Education Coordinator reported on the 4 PACE pilot partnerships. (Handout attached) Sarah clarified the previously referred to PACE line item in the reallocations for the Bicentennial Programs, Capacity Building and PACE project Budget in which \$10,000 has been added to the original PACE budget. Pending positive assessment scores, the additional funding would be distributed amongst the 4 schools, resulting in up to \$2500 being added onto the \$10,000 they will receive next year. The Programs, Grants and Services Committee previously endorsed extending the current programs to include the next grade level, which will see current students experiencing a second year in the program.
- iv. Ms. Fronczek recommended for Commission approval a new PACE partnership proposed by The Fort Wayne Dance Collective and South Wayne Elementary School in Ft. Wayne. "D is for Dancing" is the proposed "30 week

program designed to promote literacy through dance and movement.” Commissioner Yager suggested investing more in the existing programs, as an incentive for positive outcomes, opposed to continuing to create new programs, which is, Ms. Fronzcek reiterates, the endpoint of the reallocation. Mr. Ricci concurs, that with clear documentation through assessment indicators, the intent is to go deeper instead of wider. He added that the programs will need time to progress to produce qualitative results. Ms. Stewart calls for a motion to approve “D is for Dancing” as the Commission’s next PACE program. Kathy Anderson motions to approve. Pam Hicks seconds the motion.

Kathy Anderson	Yes
Gil Cárdenas	Yes
Karen Ellerbrook	Yes
Susan Hardwick	Yes
Pam Hicks	Yes
Jennifer Perry	Yes
Allen Platt	Yes
Micah Smith	Yes
Sherry Stark	Yes
Nancy Stewart	Yes
Trevor Yager	Yes

The motion passes.

Paige Sharp added that the FY17 regional initiative grants for AOS I and APS will be launching soon. If anyone requests information, forward them to the RAP in your territory. Notices of Intent will be vetted by committee to determine eligibility of art organizations. These intents will only be requested if the organization is not a current grantee.

**b. Committee on the Future, Sherry Stark, Chair**

- i. **Cultural Trust.** Rex Van Zant reported that the current Cultural Trust balance totals \$2,873,862.61, noting revenue, investment interest and certificates of deposit. (Handout attached) As of July 1, 2015 2,444 license plates have been sold, 108 of those being new plates. Susan Hardwick reminded the Commission that it does not have responsibility for the investment policy on the 3 CDs in this fund. These CDs will soon expire, but no Commission action needs to be taken as they will be renewed through the State. Rack cards have been sent to AOSIII organizations for display. Ms. Stewart added that rack cards have been passed out to commissioners for distribution to organizations they belong to.
- ii. **Strategic Plan Update.** Sherry Stark reported that the Steering Committee has been formed with consultants helping pro bono. While data has been collected from artists and general patron surveys, the final survey, yet to be distributed, is geared toward community level leaders. Ms. Michaelsen continued that between now and February all of the data will be collated into an easily digestible format for steering committee members to produce the best recommendations. Mr. Ricci continued that 3 web cafes are being developed in which artists, organizations and community level leaders can give us another level of detail above the surveys.
- iii. **Communications report.** Mr. Van Zant reported on E-newsletters. Please contact him to add any newsworthy content. Regarding website visits, Ms. Monical clarified how numbers are reported noting that increases and decreases are in relation to the previous quarter. She noted the 53% decrease in website visits from last quarter, which she attributed to the introduction of Bicentennial programs, which caused a spike in website visits. If we compare these numbers to the same time last year, we are showing an increase of 19%.
- iv. **Governor’s Arts Awards Report.** Mr. Ricci reported that the Governor’s Arts Awards will take place on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Schrott Center for the Arts. The show will begin at 5:30 pm, preceded by a reception at the Governor’s residence at 4:00 pm. The Commission presented 5 potential award recipients and 2 alternates to the office of the Governor, who then extended the invitation to all 7. At present, 6 of the 7 nominees have accepted:

Wes Montgomery, David Hochoy & Dance Kaleidoscope, Robert & Ellen Haan, American Pianists Association (Jazz Fellowship Awards), Jim Davis and PAWS, Inc., & Kenneth “Babyface” Edmonds. The only nominee yet to accept is David Letterman. The awards themselves will be created by textile artist, Daren Redman, with a design incorporating thinly cut pieces of the Constitution Elm. Nancy Stewart discussed plans being finalized by the Governor’s Arts Awards Committee and projected costs, stressing that since we are not working with another group this year, fundraising is solely Commission driven. It is hoped, however, that the reception can be attended free of charge. A lead gift may be provided by The Bicentennial Commission to allay costs and Trevor Yager has generously offered Trendy Mind’s video production company Think Smart for production of the program’s video segments. Ms. Stewart concluded that giving opportunities will be made available after the first of the year. Sherry Stark thanked Nancy for her leadership in this area.

- v. **Stellar Communities Presentation and Invitation.** Geoff Schomacker of the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) spoke to the Commission about Stellar Communities, an initiative that connects multiple agencies to partner with rural communities on developing and shaping their vision for economic stability and strengthening their region. Seeing organizations who are working to build better communities, often housed in the same building, but never communicating was the impetus. The program began with two partners, the Department of Transportation and the Housing & Community Development Authority and has extended to include 9 other agencies since its inception. Stellar Communities is now asking the Arts Commission to become the 10<sup>th</sup> partner. Mr. Ricci continued that many of our colloquia have emerged as finalists in this program with arts at the center or part of what they are proposing to do. OCRA came to the Arts Commission as a content expert because these same communities are starting to bubble up in these processes and need help getting the credibility of what they are proposing.
5. **Regional Arts Partners Update.** Scott Wylie reported the partnerships are fully staffed with a nice mix of traditional arts and granting organizations, noting a new regional partner has taken the Commission’s role in Region 7. We will be participating as much as possible in looking at the new AOS levels. We are starting to see organizations look at ways we can be relevant to their funding. Noting the Arts United study and its value in advocating on behalf of the Commission and the Commission’s work. We are looking at ways we can do things more efficiently and effectively, in the hopes of providing room to take on other roles for our organizations.
6. **Old Business/New Business.** Ms. Stark questioned Committee on the Future at-large members and if they help constitute the Committee’s quorum. Mr. Ricci noted that there used to be two boards, the Commission and the Cultural Trust. When these entities merged, it was agreed that the Committee on the Future would look after the Trust, which is why the at-large members, representative from the State Treasurer’s office and Partner Representation are included as voting members.
7. **Closing Comments.** Ms. Stewart thanked the Arts Commission staff for their level of preparation which “makes the work we do as Commissioners, so much easier.” She continued that Pam Hick’s and Karen Ellerbrook’s terms have ended. She thanked them both for being such great advisors and continuing to serve beyond their terms, concluding that they will be missed.
8. **Adjourn.** Ms. Stewart called for a motion to adjourn. Susan Hardwick so moved. Pam Hicks seconded. The motion carried by unanimous consensus. The meeting is adjourned at 11:24a.m.